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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kazuhiro WAKAO et al.

Group Art Unit: 1797

Application No.: 10/816,857

Examiner: N. BHAT

Filed: April 5, 2004

Docket No.: 118644

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING REFORMING CATALYST
DEGRADATION

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the November 14, 2007 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 4-9, 11, 18, 20, 22-27 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kawasumi (U.S. 6,641,944) in view of Tetsuo (JP 2000-268840) and Naka (U.S. 2002/018790). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On page 4, the Office Action admits that Kawasumi does not teach "the rate of increase in the detected temperature[.]" Nevertheless, the Office Action asserts that Naka supplies the subject matter missing from Kawasumi. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In paragraphs [0050] and [0051], Naka discusses the two graphs in Figs. 4 and 5 showing the time dependent changes of the reforming rate and the catalyst temperature during the reforming operation when the copper and palladium type reforming catalyst are used, respectively. However, these paragraphs only disclose that degradation of the catalyst